

SPAN-DEMONIUM

Kosciuszko Bridge replacement starts, years of road chaos ahead

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Get ready for years of closures and delays on and around the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

The state transportation department is gearing up for at least five years of work to build two new, side-by-side bridges that are set to replace the Kosciuszko Bridge. The closures have started and will affect 11 blocks and a park, according to the agency. A roads spokeswoman said the footprint is not huge, considering the scale of the job.

“When you think about the extent of the project, it is really only affecting a very small area,” Diane Park said.

Cherry Street closed between Porter and Scott avenues a few weeks ago as the state prepares to begin construction in the spring. Despite the supposed imminent start of construction, Park said that the bridges’ design has not been finalized. Work crews have also taken over Sgt. William Dougherty Park on Vandervoort Avenue, and are supposed to use it to store construction vehicles and materials at least until 2019.

Starting sometime in the coming year, the Williamsburg-bound side of Meeker Avenue is set to close for at least six months between Apollo and Sutton streets, while a lane of the Newtown-Creek-bound side is set to close between Kingsland and Porter avenues. Vandervoort is also set to close between Meeker and Anthony Street, at a time yet to be announced. Park did not say whether the on- and off-ramps at the foot of the bridge would be affected.

The state is planning to build the bridges in two phases, first by con-



Demolition of the Kosciuszko Bridge and construction of its replacements are set to take at least five years, during which time a Greenpoint park will be off-limits and surface streets will be hit with rolling closures.

structing a Queens-bound span beside the Queens-bound side of the existing bridge. That work is set to wrap in 2017. Then, the transportation department says it will tear down the existing bridge and build a Brooklyn-bound span in its footprint. That work is supposed to take until 2020, and while it

is underway, traffic is supposed to run in both directions on what will become the Queens-bound bridge.

A Greenpointer said that the road closures are a necessary evil.

“It will be annoying for a while, but the old bridge cannot last forever, so we have to deal with it,” Joe Mosely said.

The redo will move the footprint of the Newtown Creek crossing slightly, opening up space that is currently under the overpass along the Williamsburg-bound side of Meeker Avenue. The state plans to hold a series of community meetings to brainstorm ideas about what should become of the new plots.



(Above) Cherry Street has closed as the state starts to replace the Kosciuszko Bridge. (Below) What the new spans could look like.



Gowanus Alliance executive Irina Edelstein, left, and president Paul Basile pose with the Kentile Floors sign “K” at the group’s holiday party.

Kentile Floors in exile

New, less visible spot pitched for the iconic Gowanus sign

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

It likely won’t become part of the skyline again, but the Kentile Floors sign could be coming out of storage.

The beloved rooftop sign came down from its perch in Gowanus in July, but the letters could find a new home at the long-shuttered Under the Tracks playground, below the elevated F and G tracks between Second and Third avenues. The location is just one possibility, and a lot of hurdles have to be cleared before the letters go anywhere, but the disused park is a solid candidate, the sign’s caretaker said.

“We are trying to pinpoint spaces that make sense for them, and we think it would be great to bring



The Kentile Floors sign was dismantled last summer.

them back to the community and put them there,” said Paul Basile, president of the Gowanus Alliance, a business association.

He explained the appeal of the playground this way:

“They still would be physically connected to the F and G lines, and if you want to see them, get off the train, visit us in Gowanus, and see our parks and stores.”

The playground has been closed since 2009, according to a transit spokesman, before work began on the Culver Viaduct, according to Community Board 6’s district manager. It had to be fenced off because the crumbling track support structure was sending chunks of concrete falling onto the play equipment, the district manager said. The lot is cur-

See **SIGN** on page 4

Saint’s alive at Borough Hall

Sacred Italian manuscripts now on display for Brooklyn public

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough Hall is housing some really old public records.

A collection of the papers of Saint Francis of Assisi are on display at Borough Hall through Jan. 14. The 19 documents date back to the 13th and 14th centuries and include original writings from the patron saint of animals and the environment. Borough President Adams said Saint Francis’s message remains relevant to Brooklynites today.

“We have an opportunity to celebrate their cultural significance and reflect upon the messages in these texts, including empathy for all creatures and a love for the poor and needy in our society,” Adams said.

Francis called for peace among all the creatures of earth, including animals, which is why Catholic priests bless animals during the day honoring him in October. Pope Francis chose his name after the saint, saying he shared Francis’s concern for the poor.

Among the documents on display



Saint Francis of Assisi’s papers are on display in Borough Hall’s ceremonial courtroom, which has been used as a location on “Law and Order.”

at Borough Hall is an original draft of the religious song “The Canticle of the Creatures,” which is considered one of the first Italian-language masterworks.

The artifacts had not left Italy in 700 years before they arrived for a private display at the United Nations in November. Borough Hall’s exhibition is the only remaining scheduled chance to see the writings in the United States.

Saint Francis was born in Assisi in the late 1100s to a wealthy family. But in his 20s he forewent his privilege to live in poverty, preaching in the streets and cultivating a following. He organized the first Christmas nativity scene and is believed to have received the stigmata. Pope Gregory IX proclaimed Francis a saint in 1228.

“Friar Francis: Traces, words, images” at Borough Hall [209 Joralemon St. between Court and Adams streets in Downtown, (718) 802-4042, www.brooklyn-usa.org/pdf/StFrancis_Calendar4.pdf]. Through Jan. 14, various dates and times. Free.



MAKING NEWS IN 2014

There was no shortage of things to write about in Brooklyn in 2014. Can you identify these figures from our pages? The answers (and our look back at the whole action-packed year) are on page 2.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Photo by Paul Martinka

2014

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Brooklyn Paper

As 2014 draws to a close, it's hard to believe how much has happened in the county of Kings since the year began. A Park Sloper took the big office at City Hall, then, after some procrastinating, left our fair borough. The Ebola scare hit Williamsburg. Coney Island got a brand-new roller coaster. A mistletoe drone attacked our photographer. The Macy's fireworks returned to the East River. And a whole lot more. Take a look back at the stories of 2014 with our Year in Review.

JANUARY

Atlantic Yards ups and downs: Barclays Center quietly axes the 2,000 \$15 tickets per game it promised in 2012, saying scalpers were snapping up the discount ducats. Meanwhile, work on the neighboring modular high-rise B2 remains stalled weeks after Atlantic Yards developers Greenland and Forest City Ratner hailed the start of construction.

FEBRUARY

Pier pressure: The India Street Pier in Greenpoint collapses during a snowstorm. Our reporting exclusively reveals that the publicly subsidized private ferry operator never inspected the dock below the waterline.

MARCH

Park Slope at the Oscars: Park Slope couple Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez win big at the Oscars, bagging Best Song honors for their smash hit "Let it Go," from the movie "Frozen." The talented duo came up with the song during a stroll in Prospect Park.

APRIL

Slow ride: The city lowers the speed limits on McGuinness Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue to 25 miles-per-hour. The moves follow weeks of protests calling on Mayor DeBlasio to make good on his Vision Zero campaign pledge, the goal of which is to reduce city traffic deaths to zero in the next decade.

A citywide reduction would come in November.



Photo by G.N. Miller / NY Post

MAY

Operation Dumbo drop: Jason Stevens, owner of Rebar on Front Street in Dumbo, suddenly shuts his gastropub and takes off, stiffing employees and couples planning their wedding receptions. He surrenders to the Brooklyn District Attorney's office after angry couples hit the streets and the phones. Stevens is slapped with grand larceny and several fraud counts linked to nearly \$1 million in unpaid taxes. He would plead guilty to tax fraud and be sentenced to 3 years and 4 months in prison.

LICH dead: Long Island College Hospital closes amid a year-long legal battle over its fate. The closure ends 156 years of service and marks the beginning of the medical campus's new life as a luxury housing compound with a medical component. It would be five months before Fortis Property Group and New York University finally clinch the redevelopment deal.

Domino rises: The Domino Sugar Factory mega-development gets the Council's okay, clearing the way for it to rise at the foot of the Williamsburg Bridge after years of acrimony. Mayor DeBlasio squeezed 11th-hour affordable-housing concessions out of developer Two Trees by threatening to block the project.

JUNE

Wheels in the sky: The Thunderbolt rumbles into the People's Playground, becoming the neighborhood's first new roller coaster since the Cyclone. The new Thunderbolt — a rebooted version of its iconic namesake, which croaked in 2000 — is faster, steeper, and more twisted than the Cyclone, which opened in 1927.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

derbolt rumbles into the People's Playground, becoming the neighborhood's first new roller coaster since the Cyclone. The new Thunderbolt — a rebooted version of its iconic namesake, which croaked in 2000 — is faster, steeper, and more twisted than the Cyclone, which opened in 1927.

Joe's woes: Former District Attorney Charles "Joe" Hynes experiences a role-reversal as a scathing city report accused him of allegedly looting the public piggybank and violating election laws in his failed re-election bid last year. The borough's ex-top lawman may have paid a political hack more than \$1.1 million in public funds between 2003 and 2013, including almost \$220,000 in cash seized from criminals, to boost his campaign, while improperly seeking political advice from a sitting judge, the authorities claim. Hynes was the borough's top lawman for 23 years before current District Attorney Ken Thompson unseated him in the 2013 November elections.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

End of term: Windsor Terrace's Bishop Ford High School closes after 52 years, citing financial woes. The Brooklyn Diocese ceded control of the school to a board of directors in 1976 and says it doesn't have the money to bail out the floundering institution.

DeBlasio decamps: The DeBlasio-McCray clan moves to Gracie Mansion in Manhattan, leaving us with one fewer mayoral family to write about.

Kentile Floors sign comes down: The iconic Kentile Floors sign comes down from its perch on a Gowanus roof, but outcry from locals and pols convinces its owner to take the letters down gingerly and donate them to a business-booster group for preservation.

Clockwise from top left: Riders on the new Thunderbolt loop the loop. Protesters rally outside Barclays Center following controversial grand jury decisions in killings by police. A white flag flies over the Brooklyn Bridge following a nighttime switch. Teens speak about the NYPD's youth-shooting tactic. Couple Vicki Friedrich and Egon Smullyan scrambled to replan their wedding after Rebar closed suddenly, leaving them out thousands of dollars. Borough President Adams demonstrates his grit in the face of the deadly Ebola virus.

tor Michael Ameri, commanding officer of Park Slope's 78th Precinct, leaves his post to take the top road-enforcement job in the city. The promotion comes after months of high-profile traffic-safety campaigns, including a failure-to-yield sting operation involving undercover police posing as pedestrians.

Macy's blast from the past: The Macy's fireworks return to the East River, and to the Brooklyn Bridge towers.

AUGUST

Atlantic Yards name change: Greenland and Forest City Ratner ask the world to start referring to their contentious Prospect Heights mega-development as "Pacific Park." Few will heed the call.

SEPTEMBER

Parole paranoia: Gowanus residents blast the state for secretly centralizing the borough's parole offices into one command post in their backyard, claiming the influx of ex-jailbirds will bring crime to the area. The project is a year in the making and on track for completion in early 2015.

Lehman leaving: Longtime Brooklyn Museum director Arnold Lehman announces he's retiring after 17 years.

OCTOBER

NYPD blues: A Clinton Hill

teen suffered brain damage after a cop knocked him out with one punch for smoking a cigarette he mistook for a joint, his family claims. The story comes days after we break news of the Police Department's tactic of shooting teens who gather anywhere from Dumbo to Park Slope.

Ebola scare: Brooklyn is on red alert after a doctor recently returned from treating Ebola patients pays a visit to a Williamsburg bowling alley and comes down with the deadly virus a day later. After two scrub-downs, managers at the Gutter reopen the place, and Borough President Adams bowls a few frames to show it is safe. The doctor recovers.

NOVEMBER

Police-brutality protests: Protester, including moms with young children, crisscross the East River bridges on foot night after night, decrying grand juries' decisions not to indict the cops who killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Gowanus native Eric Garner in Staten Island.

DECEMBER

Police murdered: A deranged gunman murders NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in cold blood, calling it revenge for the deaths of Garner and Brown. Police unions blame Mayor DeBlasio.

COVER STORIES

- 1) Junior's Restaurant owner Alan Rosen, decided to take the restaurant's flagship location off the market in September, saying he couldn't bear to close it.
- 2) Jason Stevens, owner of shuttered Dumbo event space Rebar, leaves court after pleading guilty to tax fraud in June.
- 3) Kristen Anderson-Lopez, left, and Robert Lopez won an Oscar for the inescapable song "Let It Go" from "Frozen" in March.
- 4) Andi D'Angelo and Jamie Sclafane strutted their stuff in the Elaine Bad Dancer contest at "Seinfeld" Night at MCU Park in July.
- 5) When Nets management retired the team's unpopular mascot, Brooklyn Paper readers had a chance to anoint a replacement. Congratulations to Crummy the Pigeon!
- 6) Brooklyn's filmmaker laureate Spike Lee let loose an epic rant about gentrification during a Black History Month lecture at Pratt Institute in February.

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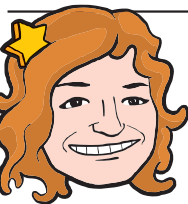
Planning to be more fearless

I am always so happy to have a reason to think about starting anew, to wipe the slate clean and build up again with a whole fresh perspective. Boy, that's appealing!

And so it is that I enter 2015 with a whole spate of resolutions, borne out of the wisdom of my two boys.

•**Take your own good advice:** "Breathe, count to 10," Oscar told me on the afternoon recently when I was hyperventilating because guests were about to arrive for a holiday get-together and nothing was ready, including me. "You told me that, remember? When I couldn't find my baseball game?" he said. "You have really good advice, Mom, you just need to take it."

•**Chill:** This is the constant refrain of my 13-year-old, Eli, the one-word teenager tactic to de-claw a tiger mother intent on controlling him. Even though it is enraging, stretched long into about four syllables and joined by a hand up in the universal sign of "Stop," he is often dead on.



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

high alert. "Are you okay?" I ask, fear and concern surely showing in my eyes. I am not one to easily mask anything. The responses, usually, are rolled eyes and a very emphatic, "I'm fine, mom." And, of course, they most often are.

•**Don't be afraid to be the "bad" parent:** A friend told me recently that there was concern about me a while back because "you let your kids' hair grow long," and "apparently you weren't going to the grocery store." It upset me to think people were judging, but then I realized that people — including me — do judge, and I cannot worry about appearing perfect. In fact, if I fail to cook elaborate home-cooked meals heavy on kale, and order out Chinese or pizza (no organic ingredients in sight), if

I let the children (long-haired or short, it is up to them) skip a day or two between showers, "It's not a big deal, Mom," they say. And they're right.

•**Smile:** Life is too short to be so serious. Yes, racism is rampant. Sure, plenty of terrorists want to take us down. But I never watch the news or read all too much about the details of the terrible tragedies because if I do I get paralyzed. I do my part, I try not to ignore the harsh realities right around me, but I attempt to take in Eli's "It's all good," mantra. Because even if it is not currently "all good," belief that it can be is way more than half the battle toward making it so.

•**Believe:** Yes. Eli's loyalty to the Giants despite their difficulties has inspired me. Sometimes I have to be reminded of the idea that belief beyond a doubt is a powerful tool, that the

power of the mind to overcome adversity is strong if there is some compelling person, place, or thing pulling you through in your thoughts.

•**Slow down:** On days off from school, my boys often want nothing more than to stay in pajamas all day and do whatever they want. Screw my agenda to hit the top exhibits at local museums and catch a show. Despite living in one of the most culturally rich, exciting cities in the world, they want to sit and do nothing. And they're right. Despite what's going on outside our windows, we just need to check back in with our own compass without crossing paths with anyone else. Here's to lazy days.

•**Never underestimate the power of a hug:** Sometimes, miraculously, my growing boys will ask me to snuggle. Maybe they can't sleep, or maybe they're cold, but whatever the reason, they need me to wrap them in my arms. And I am always more than happy to oblige. Touch is a crucial savior, and I will never stop attempting to crush my boys in the warmest of hugs so long as we all shall live.

•**Let it go:** Even if you're

right, even if you're so sure someone else is wrong, do as the "Frozen" song famously says and "Let it Go!" With family or friends or strangers on the street, letting altercations fester too long is not good for anyone, especially you.

•**Try:** I used to give out gold stars to people just for trying. I need to find some good puffy glittery stars and start again. Because in whatever circumstances, against whatever constraints, there are always people who inspire me because of the energy they expend toward achieving their goals. My sons inspire me all the time. This year, Oscar worked so hard to put in contact lenses, and bravely began drama classes, and Eli went willingly to Social Studies Regents after school, and barely registered a complaint with all he had to do in the high-school application process. I am proud and motivated by my kids to keep on trying in my many endeavors.

Good luck with your own lists, and with making 2015 the best ever for you and yours!

JOIN THE CLUB

Venue introduces annual memberships

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

In the new year, forget that gym membership—a scrappy Bushwick music venue is offering an all-access pass that will let indie music fans boogie the calories away.

The Silent Barn on Bushwick Avenue has a new, annual-membership model that will allow subscribers to attend as many shows and art events as they want. A member of the arts collective said she hopes the move will help stabilize its finances, and allow it to continue offering programming outside of high-decibel shows.

“This is one way to subsidize artists programs without having to struggle to sell X amount of tickets every night,” said Silent Barn fund-raising coordinator Hillary Reeves.

Memberships are \$300 per year, in monthly installments of \$25, which is not a bad deal for the diehard scenester, considering that door prices for recent shows have ranged from \$5 to \$10 and the venue says it hosted 486 in 2014. If the membership scheme were in place this past year, and someone could have found the time to



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Hillary Reeves, fund-raising coordinator for the Silent Barn, shows one of the membership buttons she hopes will help the venue keep the lights on.

attend all the concerts, that would have come out to 62 cents per show.

The money is supposed to go toward paying artists and sprucing up the sprawling, two-building complex that, in addition to performance space, includes an art gallery, studios for rent,

and apartments.

“We want to be able to program better shows and build out the space so that it sounds great,” Reeves said.

The memberships went on sale the week before Christmas, and perhaps predictably in the do-it-yourself arts scene where performers and show-

goers often live on a shoe-string budget, only six people have signed up so far.

One member said he is happy to support the scruffy institution.

“To me, Silent Barn is about community and about making it financially sustainable to support emerging artists in New York,” said Eli Dvorkin, who was the first to purchase a membership. “I want to help support a project that continues to demonstrate its commitment to DIY ethos.”

Reeves plans to cap the number of memberships at 90, so that she can communicate with all of the members and make sure they are getting their money’s worth.

She is not the only one with this idea. The collectivists face stiff competition from more-conventional Williamsburg venue Baby’s All Right, which is offering 100 memberships for just \$99.

The current incarnation of the Silent Barn opened in 2012 between Jefferson and Melrose streets, rising from the ashes of its Queens location, which was laid low the year prior by a one-two punch of police, who locked it down over building violations, and burglars, who stripped it of its public-address system and other electronics and cash while no one was allowed in. Members have made a point of getting the proper paperwork this time around.

Stanton stands down

Heights Association loses longtime head

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The longtime director of an influential Brooklyn Heights civic group is eyeing the exit.

Judy Stanton, executive director of the 104-year-old Brooklyn Heights Association, has announced that she will retire next August after more than three decades with the group. The organization issued a statement calling Stanton “the face of the BHA” and praising her contributions to the neighborhood.

“Her tenure reflects an exceptional dedication, integ-



File photo by Shrawan Vidyarthi

Judy Stanton

rity and passion for dealing with all issues that concern Brooklyn Heights,” the statement says. “Her experience

and deep community roots have been invaluable to the neighborhood.”

Stanton served on the board of governors of the Association starting in the late 1980s and was later hired as director.

The Heights Association was founded in 1910 and has played an active role in the neighborhood ever since. The group fought Robert Moses’s plan to build the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway through the heart of the neighborhood in 1945, landing concessions that paved the way for the creation of the Brooklyn Heights

Promenade over a cantilevered stretch of highway. It started advocating for the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park back in the 1980s.

As the park has neared completion, Stanton has pushed for it to conform to the Association’s preservation-minded agenda, recently demanding that an under-construction hotel be lowered to offer a better view of the Brooklyn Bridge, and that one of two proposed residential towers at Pier 6 also be trimmed.

Stanton’s last day is set for Aug. 31. The group says it will have its hands full replacing her.

“She has set a high bar for the BHA board, and her example will inspire us as we look to the future,” the Association statement says.

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Nets center Mason Plumlee is doing decently considering that he started out on the bench and is now filling Brook Lopez’s shoes.

Bench beauties, big-name beasts

What do we have here?

As 2014 comes to an end in Brooklyn — and, I’m told, other places too — that’s the question the Nets are facing. The grand experiment to build an immediate title-contender upon the team’s arrival in the borough has grown as stale as the sidewalk hot-dog bun I indulged in this morning. Meanwhile, Coach Hollins seems to have found a rhythm with a starting five that puts Jarrett Jack and Mason Plumlee — presumed backups when the season started — ahead of off-injured stars Deron Williams and Brook Lopez.

After watching the Nets beat Sacramento on Monday, I flew down into the bowels of Barclays to listen in on some of Hollins’ post-game comments.

“This is the Brooklyn Nets. Brook and Deron, yes, they were starters. They’ve been out and if you note, while they were out, we started playing better and winning,” coach said, according to some pigeon-scratch I scribbled on the back of a scrap of toilet paper. “So why would I go back and change the lineup for now? I would hope that

they would play better and they did.”

If indeed Mr. Hollins’ Opus keeps the backups playing over the starters in 2015, the Nets will have to decide whether bringing “Big Lug” Lopez and D-Will off the bench — two guys owed a combined \$37 million next season — is a worthwhile luxury or a foolish expense. To



Flagrant Fowl
with Crummy the Pigeon

me, the current scheme is the equivalent of pounding Pabsts to start the night, then deciding to switch to some fancy craft-brew stuff once everything starts tasting the same. But others could argue having a stacked bench is an uncommon advantage for a team that has looked too downright common for much of its time in Brooklyn.

From my perch, part of this comes down to whether us Nets fans want the team to be successful or simply fun to watch. Mr. Lopez is a great guy and talented scorer, but his game reminds me of the turtles I used to heckle at Prospect Park Lake. By compari-

son, Young Plumlee bounds around like a giant frog. But beyond the excitement of seeing a young player getting his legs under him, is there really a strong argument to giving him twice as many minutes as a former All-Star? Plumdog Millionaire had a great game against the Kings, but he didn’t exactly shut down star big man DeMarcus Cousins, who made 75 percent of his shots, grabbed 13 boards, and posterized the Duke grad with a brutal dunk in the fourth quarter. And sure, as of Monday the Nets were 7–9 with Lopez starting this year, and 7–7 with him either out or coming off the bench, but

the teams they’ve beat with Plums as a starter had a combined record of 57–124.

It’s been a blast to watch from the rafters as this gawky blonde-headed kid develops into a legitimate NBA player. But while Hollins seems reluctant to put Plumdog and Big Lug on the floor together, we’ve yet to at least see a healthy Lopez playing the same amount as this new, confident Mason. If our boys in black decide they want to still make a run at the playoffs this year, they’ll probably need a 50–50 split between the two to make that happen. Otherwise, it’s time to ship Brook out of town and go bottoms-up on rebuilding Brooklyn around a bunch of scrappy no-namers.

Speaking of which, spare a buck for a beer?

Mugging foiled when victim fights back

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

A mugger walked off empty-handed after his mark fought him off on Greene Avenue on Dec. 28, cops said.

The victim, an 18-year-old woman, had just stepped off the B52 bus between Washington Avenue and St. James Place in Clinton Hill when the bandit attempted to yank the wallet from her left hand as she chatted on her cellphone, cops said.

Both mugger and victim hit the dirt and began tussling on the ground over the woman’s possessions, and eventually the impatient would-be thief gave up and scrambled, according to the authorities.

Bear hug

A brute attacked a woman at Myrtle Avenue on Dec. 22 and stole her cellphone, NYPD officials said.

The victim was on Adelphi Street near Myrtle Avenue at 9:20 pm when the ruffian came up behind her, bear-hugged her, and grabbed her cellphone from her jacket pocket, according to a report. The attacker then forced her under a parked car and ran off, police said.

The victim told cops she couldn’t tell them what the at-

tacker looked like and that she had no desire to press charges should they bring in a suspect.

Duck!

A rowdy customer hucked glassware at an employee of a chain restaurant on Flatbush Avenue Extension on Dec. 24, police said.

Workers at the eatery between Dekalb Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene called police when a customer became irate and hurled his glass at the woman’s face around 6:55 pm, cops said.

The victim avoided injuries despite being struck in the face, and the no-goodnik took off, according to a report.

Breaking locks

A burglar swiped a pricey laptop from a Hall Street business sometime between Dec. 19 and 22, law enforcement officials said.

The owner of the business between Flushing and Park avenues in Clinton Hill reported that he left his shop locked for the weekend on Dec. 19, but when he returned at 9:50 am on Dec. 22, the locks were broken and a Dell Acer laptop was nowhere to be found, according to a report.

— Noah Hurowitz

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Gun and done

A gun-toting goon held up a woman and stole \$50 from her on Parrott Place on Dec. 26, according to the authorities.

The victim was between 88th and 90th streets in Bay Ridge at 10 pm when the bandit put the piece to her back and ordered her to the ground, then fled with the cash, police said.

Break and take

Someone stole two cellphones and \$100 from a Fort Hamilton Parkway store overnight on Dec. 26, officers said.

The burglar got into the property between 62nd and 63rd streets in Dyker Heights by breaking a rear-yard cellar-door’s lock between 9:30 pm on Friday and 9:30 am the next day, police said.

Smoked out

A burglar stole 68 cartons of cigarettes, \$150, and some lottery tickets from a 13th Avenue shop sometime between Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, cops said.

The sneak snapped a lock on a back door at the prop-

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

erty between 79th and 80th streets in Dyker Heights between 11 pm on Tuesday and 6:20 am on Wednesday, police said.

The victim valued the stolen goods at \$8,530, a police report states.

— Max Jaeger

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside

Mob lives

A goon slashed the boyfriend of a “Mob Wives” star with a box-cutter at a Wythe Avenue nightclub on Dec. 28, cops said.

The 37-year-old victim said he was hanging out at the club at N. 11th Street at 3:20 am when the attacker came up behind him and slashed him in the face, arm, and gut.

The attacker ran out of the club, but the slicing was caught on camera, according to a report. The victim was taken to Woodhull Medical Center, where he required more than 250 stitches, ac-

ording to a post on reality TV personality Natalie Guericco’s Instagram account.

Cutting remarks

A fiend cut a guy with a knife during an argument on Bedford Avenue on Dec. 28, according to the NYPD.

The 28-year-old victim said he was arguing with the lout

at N. Seventh Street at 12:30 am when the guy whipped out the blade and slashed him on the hand.

The villain ran off and emergency personnel transported the victim to Woodhull Medical Center, where he was treated and released, law enforcement officials said.

Vice gear, man

A prowler broke into Vice Media’s N. 11th Street office on Dec. 20 and stole a cache of electronics, according to cops.

A manager at the office between Wythe Avenue and

SIGN...

Continued from page 1

rently being used for the ongoing restoration work on the viaduct and Basile’s group has not yet reached out, the transit spokesman said.

The sign, a longtime fixture of the Brooklyn skyline, was dismantled at the direction of Ely Cohen, owner of the building it sat atop, despite howls of protest from preservationists, neighbors, and local pols. The outcry prompted Cohen to preserve the letters as workers took

them down, then hand them over to the Alliance.

The iconic typography has been hidden in a warehouse ever since, as the group has plotted its comeback. Work can’t officially begin until Cohen files paperwork to list them as a charitable donation, Basile said, but that should come soon.

The Gowanus Alliance will convene three committees to work on the sign’s restoration, including one to work on fundraising, one to actually restore the letters, and one to nail down a final resting place, he said. The restoration will be a Gow-

anus affair, Basile added.

“Everything must be done in Gowanus, by a Gowanus professional or a resident of the neighborhood,” he said.

The letters are in rough shape, and will require some metal work to be brought back to life, but Basile said he is not interested in making the sign look good as new.

“The scars and dings and physical wear all tell a story,” he said. “We think that’s valuable in itself.”

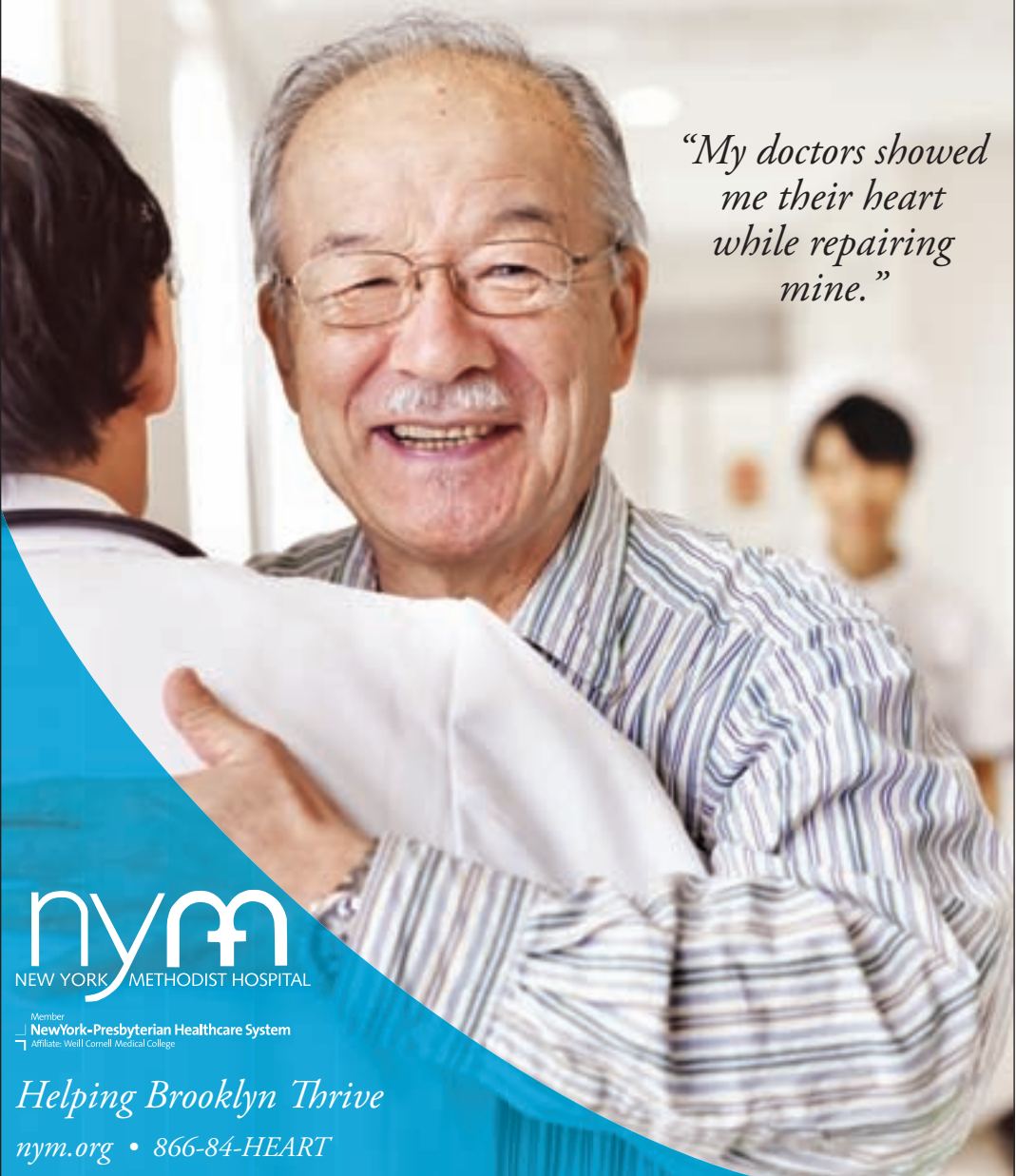
One letter, the K, made an appearance at the Gowanus Alliance holiday party on Dec. 19, to the delight of attendees,

Basile said. The 90-degree tilt of the top and bottom serifs on the right side of the letter caused alarm in our art department and comments section, but Basile assured us that the letters are made up of movable segments and will be rebuilt in their original shape when they have a permanent resting place.

The sign commemorates a factory that churning out asbestos tiles for decades before consumers wised up to the cancer-causing danger of the material. Kentile Floors decamped in the 1990s, leaving only the sign.

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Cross Harbor Freight Program PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) have released a NEPA Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate alternatives to improve the movement of goods in the region by enhancing the transportation of freight across New York Harbor. The Cross Harbor Freight Program (CHFP) DEIS evaluates both near-term and long-term improvements to the regional freight network. Public Hearings provide an opportunity for the public and agencies to comment on and provide input on the DEIS. Public Hearings for the CHFP will be held at the New York and New Jersey locations listed below:

Friday, January 23, 2015 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Baruch College / CUNY • William and Anita Newman
151 East 25th Street • H750 & Faculty Lounge • New York, NY 10010

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Suffolk County Legislature • W.H. Rogers Legislature Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway • Smithtown, NY 11787

Thursday, January 29, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Queens Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard • Room 213 • Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street • Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thursday, February 5, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Bronx Borough Hall
851 Grand Concourse • Bronx, NY 10451

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
One Newark Center • 17th Floor • Newark, NJ 07102

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center
140 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive • Jersey City, NJ 07305



The DEIS is available to download at www.crossharborstudy.com. Hardcopies are located at numerous repositories throughout the region. A complete list of repositories can be found on the project website.

Your comments are encouraged and may be provided in writing either at the public hearing or by mail to Cross Harbor Freight Program, c/o InGroup, Inc., PO Box 206 Midland Park, NJ 07432 or via email to feedback@crossharborstudy.com. The public comment period will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2015.

All public hearing dates, times and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather conditions. An informational recording regarding any change in the hearing schedule will be available at (201) 820-2170 at least two hours before the scheduled start time of the hearing.

The public hearings are accessible to people who are mobility impaired. Sign language interpreter services or other translation services are available, upon advance request. To make arrangements for such services, please contact the Port Authority’s outreach consultant at (201) 612-1230 or via email at feedback@crossharborstudy.com no later than three (3) days before the hearing for which the services are being requested.

For more information about the Cross Harbor Freight Program or to download a copy of the DEIS document, please visit the project website at www.crossharborstudy.com.





Stefano Giovannini



Steve Solomonson



Elisabeth Graham

Spilling our guts

The Best Things We Ate Last Year

Reporters and editors name the finest things they stuffed in their mouths in Brooklyn in 2014.

Holy pozole

There is nothing like the food of the Aztecs. Taqueria La Placita Puebla on Broadway in Bushwick has all sorts of stellar traditional Mexican dishes, but the best thing on the menu is the pozole soup. This pre-Columbian dish is savory, complex, and scrumptious. It is a good representation of what the Mexicans ate before the conquistadors moved in.

The main ingredient in the soup is hominy, an oversized type of corn that is rarely seen here in Brooklyn. In fact, that is what pozole means. The soup also has meat.

Anthropologists say that in the Aztec days, the meat used in pozole was sometimes human, taken from the bodies of prisoners. La Placita Puebla just makes it with run-of-the-mill pork, but that does not make it any less tasty.

— Danielle Furfaro

Taqueria La Placita Puebla [830 Broadway between Ellery and Park streets in Bushwick, (718) 302-1092].

Comfort food

Istanbul Restaurant in Sheepshead Bay is the best place I ate all year. And not just because of the food, though the Turkish meat pie I had there — reminiscent of a calzone — was quite good. But the best part about the restaurant was the service.

I'm cold in restaurants year-round. Most eateries blast the air conditioning in the summer and the Bay's waterfront establishments are usually drafty in the winter, but the Istanbul Restaurant is prepared for every patron with poor-circulation. Before I even sat down, a waiter asked me if I wanted a blanket and I think I gasped when he produced a fluffy turquoise one.

— Vanessa Ogle

Istanbul [1715 Emmons Ave. between E. 16th Street and Sheepshead Bay Road in



Elisabeth Graham

Soup-er: Reporter Matthew Perlman loves to slurp a big bowl of ramen at Downtown's Ganso. (Pictured top from left to right) A customer at Ocean Fish Market with Max Jaeger's favorite fish and chips. Istanbul Restaurant's owners with their signature offering: a blanket. And coffee snob and arts editor Ruth Brown loves the pricey brew at Greenpoint's Budin.

Sheepshead Bay, (718) 368-3587].

Sounds fishy

The fish and chips at Downtown's Ocean Fresh Fish Market is the best thing I ate all year. It is a no-frills market where you can stuff yourself to the gills for about \$5. I stumbled on this gem one evening as a man pleaded with the owner through a half-closed security gate.

"My wife sent me all the way here — I can't go back empty-handed," I recall him saying.

I knew that was a good sign and went back the next day.

— Max Jaeger

Ocean Fresh Fish Market [70 Willoughby St. between Bridge and Lawrence streets Downtown, (718) 596-0720].

Broth sides now

Downtown's Ganso is a sharp break from the fish sandwiches, hot dogs, and souvlaki that I usually eat near The Brooklyn Paper office. It is tucked away on Bond Street amidst the looming development projects just off of Fulton Mall. It is not a place you expect to uncover an awesome bowl of ramen, but that is what you'll find there.

I like the stock version best — the Ganso kakuni. There is just something about pork belly swimming in a salty broth surrounded by chewy noodles that I can't get enough of. I even like the awkward shoveling of the strands with chop sticks. The difficulty makes every bite taste a bit better.

— Matthew Perlman

Ganso [25 Bond St. at Livingston Street

in Downtown, (718) 403-0900, www.gansonyc.com/].

Prison food

The best thing I ate last year was an apple. More specifically, the best thing I ate this year was a red macintosh apple served up by the New York Police Department during my overnight incarceration at One Police Plaza while covering the still-ongoing Eric Garner protests.

Jail food has a deserved reputation for nastiness, and the so-called "cheese sandwiches" on the menu that night were a good representation of that. But cold and crisp with nary a bruise or a spot, the apples were a delight.

When I bit into the fruit I had probably been awake for close to 24 hours, and was still nursing the handcuff marks on my wrists, but the juicy fruit of biblical temptation brought me back to life.

— Noah Hurowitz

Whole latte love

In February, The Brooklyn Paper's news section had a minor viral hit with a story about a new coffee shop in Greenpoint selling a \$7 (later raised to \$10) latte. Many commenters were suitably outraged at this latest apparent harbinger of the death of Old Brooklyn, until the next thing to be shake their fists at came along (a performance art duo decided to live inside a giant hamster wheel for 10 days).

First off, apologies to the coffee shop, Budin — I was the one who passed that story on to the news department. Secondly, apologies to outraged readers, but I was delighted by the opening of Budin, which is bringing some of the finest coffee in the world roasted by the best roasters in the world to New York City.

So the best thing I ate (well, drank) this year was just such a coffee — grown by an esteemed farm in Panama, roasted by a famed Norwegian roaster. It was delicious — sweet and floral with bright, citric acidity — and it cost around \$8, which I was perfectly happy to part with.

— Ruth Brown

Budin [114 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and Manhattan Avenues in Greenpoint, (347) 844-9639, www.budin-nyc.com/].

PERFORMANCE

Live wired

He is the star of the show — and also the theater tech.

A new performance piece that features complex lighting, multimedia, and an interactive set is coming to a Boerum Hill art space on Jan. 13-17. But rather than employing a troupe of actors and a crew of designers and technicians to stage the show, the artist responsible has created a set of computer programs to control the lights and sounds on the stage while he performs alone. He said the flashy effects help him tell the story in a new way.

"I've tried to curate a narrative using different production elements," said interactive-electronics artist Andrew Schneider. "It lets me change space instantly. It's like hyper-cutting reality together."

The piece, "Youarenowhere," is part of the Coil Festival at Invisible Dog Gallery, a series of experimental performances organized by Performance Space 122. Schneider's piece reflects his background in theater — he has performed with famed experimental theater company the Wooster Group — but also his degree from the interactive telecommunications program at New York University, which focuses on the use of technology to create new forms of communication. It was there that Schneider said he saw how computers could be used to manipulate a stage environment in previously impossible ways, using programming to control lights and projections.

"Just learning the syntax of that language blew my whole world open," he said. "The possibilities were endless."

"Youarenowhere" is a marriage of Schneider's disciplines. He is the lone performer on a stage cloaked in lights controlled by a pair of laptops, talking directly to the audience about love and about the trouble his character is having communicating to the person he loves.

In the show, the environment around him changes according to a pre-written programming script, with sound effects and distortions interrupting the messages his character is trying to convey. Schneider is also able to control some of the production elements while on stage, including the ability to adjust some of the lights using the pitch of his voice.

"The space itself and the design elements are characters in a way, preventing communication," he said.

"Youarenowhere" at Invisible Dog Gallery [51 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 560-3641, www.theinvisibledog.org/]. Jan. 8 at 8 pm; Jan. 9 at 5 pm, Jan. 12 at 2 pm, Jan. 13-17 at 7 pm. \$21 (\$16 students and seniors).

— Matthew Perlman

PARTY

Punk prom

This New Years Eve party is so alternative, it is happening on Jan. 3.

A collection of queer punk rockers is planning to kick off 2015 in dapper yet raucous style with New Queers Eve, a winter formal dance and live music show at Silent Barn in Bushwick.

"We want to create a queer party atmosphere with bands rather than a nightlife scene," said organizer and musician Cristy C. Road, who will perform an acoustic set at the dance.

The other artists on the bill include digital cumbapunk band Malportado Kids, electro-grunge outfit Clinical Trials, and punk band Penguin. There will also be a photo booth, tarot card readings by Suzy X of the band Shady Hawkins, and raffle prizes.

"We hope that it is a festive atmosphere that people feel comfortable being in," said Al Rosenberg, who is the guitar player and singer of Penguin. "It is not just a dance, and it is not just a show, and it is not just a party. It is an easier environment with a little less pressure."

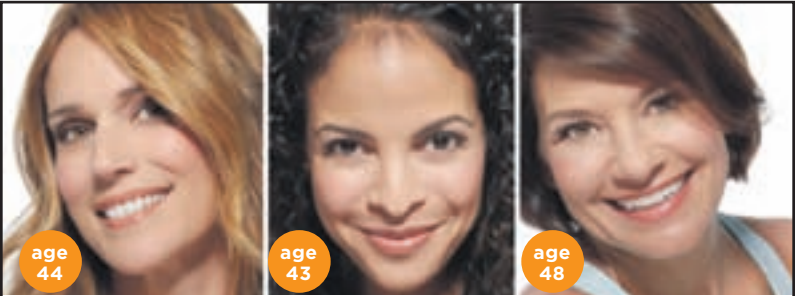
All of the performers were booked by the Brooklyn TransCore Collective, which focuses on promoting trans and queer bands in the borough. The collective has held two previous formals and like those, this will also be a fund-raiser. But this time, in addition to collecting funds for itself, the collective will also raise money for the Fund for The Children of Eric Garner.

"This will be a culturally diverse safe space and we want to use this event to keep the dialogue happening," said Road.

Organizers are asking patrons to dress in "formal wear," which they define as any attempt to look fancy.

New Queers Eve at Silent Barn (603 Bushwick Ave. between Melrose and Jefferson streets in Bushwick, www.silentbarn.org/), Jan. 3 at 8 pm, \$8, \$7 in formal wear.

— Danielle Furfaro



age 44

age 43

age 48

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

Jan. 2

First crack

Brooklyn's greatest new year tradition returns. Fifty local comedians will take the stage at the Bell House to tell the first joke they have written in 2015 at the ninth annual 50 First Jokes. Hosted by funny man John F. O'Donnell, the bill also includes Sasheer Zamata, Michael Che, Aparna Nancherla, and Mike Lawrence, plus about 46 others.

8 pm at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse-ny.com]. \$12.

SUNDAY

Jan. 4

Alt-altar

Getting hitched but don't want the white dress or the cheesy love songs? Then get thee to the Music Hall of Williamsburg on time for offbeat wedding expo Lovesick, where a cohort of vendors specializing in unconventional matrimonial clothing, food, decor, photography, and entertainment will be waiting to help plan your weirdo ceremony.

11 am–3 pm at Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400, www.musicallof-williamsburg.com]. \$10.

TUESDAY

Jan. 6

Go your own whey

This sounds grate! Cheesemonger Pam Brewer will guide lactose lovers on an educational tasting through eight cheeses from different regions, covering the science, history, and artistry behind everyone's favorite dairy product.

7 pm at Court Tree Collective [371 Court St. between Carroll Street and First Place, (718) 422-7806, www.courttree.com]. \$38.

WEDNESDAY

Jan. 7

The walking read

Every day they're shuffling. Zombie book authors John L. Campbell — of new novel "Drifters" — and Roger Ma — of new coloring book "The Zombie Combat Field Guide" — will lurch into bookstore Word to talk everything undead and expand your braaaains.

7 pm at Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.word-brooklyn.com]. Free.

THURSDAY

Jan. 8

Roots canal

Alaskan fiddler Ken Waldman brings his annual From Red Hook to the Real Alaska roots vaOriety showcase back to the Jalopy. This year's eclectic lineup includes Celtic harp and percussive-dance duo Nic Gareiss and Maeve Gilchrist, and old-time string band the Down Hill Strugglers.

8 pm at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz]. \$10.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 2

SPORTS, KIDS WATER POLO CLINIC: Brooklyn Heights Saint Francis Water Polo Club is holding a clinic for all skill levels from ages 8 to 16 years old. It will focus on fundamental water polo and swimming skills, shooting drills, and individual defensive and offensive positioning. \$60. 11 am–2 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200], www.sfc.edu.

COMEDY, THE SHAME GAME: Join comedians Giulia Rozzi, Krystyna Hutchinson, Emma Willmann, and Sabrina Jalees in a storytelling competition to see whose story is worthy to be crowned King or Queen of Shame. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, SEAN SCHULICH'S PHUNKY PHLOOT AND ALPHA MOSAIC: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

SAT, JAN. 3

ART, TARGET FIRST FRIDAY: With live music, comedy, and performances by the artists and artists inspired by the work in the exhibition "Crossing Brooklyn," including funk band Snarky Puppy and comedian Greg Barris. Free. 5 pm.

MUSIC, JARFLOWER, LIZARD PIZZA, FORGET THIS: \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740], www.therockshopny.com.

MUSIC, MOTEL POOLS, THE MID-NIGHT HOLLOW, LAS ROSAS: \$10. 8 pm. Baby's All Right [146 Broadway between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599-5800], www.babysallright.com.

TALK, FREE CITIZENSHIP COURSES: A course on navigating the citizenship process, offering in-class help with paperwork and legal questions. Free. 1–3 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, JAN. 2

COMEDY, KATT WILLIAMS: \$54.50–\$180.50. 8 pm.

SAT, JAN. 3

SPORTS, BROOKLYN HOOPS PRESENTS IOWA STATE VS. SOUTH CAROLINA: \$15–\$25. 6 pm.

MON, JAN. 5

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DALLAS MAVERICKS: \$30–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

WED, JAN. 7

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. BOSTON CELTICS: \$30–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

FRI, JAN. 9

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS: \$30–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

MON, JAN. 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. HOUSTON ROCKETS: \$55–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

Green day: The Nets take on the Celtics at Barclays Center on Jan. 7.

Associated Press / Michael Dwyer

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

SUN, JAN. 4

MUSIC, THE UNGRADED, JEAN POOL, NEON GREEN LAUNDRY: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

NESTFEST: Winter is the best time to look for nests trees. Discover how garden animals build their homes out of plant parts; try crafting your very own nest; make a nest field guide to bring outdoors; and cozy up with books and puppets! Free with Garden admission. 1–3 pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden [1000 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7220], www.bbg.org.

MON, JAN. 5

READING, JASON SOKOL: Historian Jason Sokol presents his book "All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn," a history of racism and politics in the Northeast. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

MUSIC, THE SUPER FRIENDS, SUB-TITLES, YOUNG GUTS: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

TUES, JAN. 6

TALK, NELL PAINTER AND SARAH LEWIS: Nell Painter discusses her exhibit, "She said, She said: Art and inspiration" and her personal inspiration with "The History of White People" author Sarah Lewis. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], See 9 DAYS on page 7

CNG

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Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill Paper,

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Paper,

Bay Ridge Paper, Bensonhurst Paper,

Bushwick Paper, Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper

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NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

NYPA

All fired up for winter

Warm up at Brooklyn’s best bar fireplaces

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Baby, it’s finally cold outside. It is beginning to look — and feel — a lot like winter. Fortunately, many Brooklyn watering holes boast large, cozy fireplaces where you can warm up without racking up a huge heating bill. Our resident fireplace expert advises on four of the best bar-bashed hearths in the borough, and how to get toasty while you’re there.

Union Hall

The fireplace at this Park Slope bar takes the cake. Big and toasty, it sits in a central chimney that allows groups to sit on both sides. And in a neighborhood full of comfort lovers, increased access scores big points. It is surrounded by deep and cozy leather couches and bookshelves that, while largely ornamental, lend it the feeling of a well-used study in a snowed-in hunting lodge somewhere cold and remote

Warm up with: Keep it classic with a hot toddy, or try the hot hard cider. Fortified with a shot of cinnamon whiskey and spiced with cloves, it will put the color in your cheeks and brace you for the colder temperatures outside.

Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400, www.unionhallny.com].



Fired up: Alyssa Nastasia of Queens and Michael Verdiram of Bay Ridge warm themselves by the fireplace at Union Hall.

Clover Club

You may not be able to get as close as you can at some other bar fireplaces, but the ‘place at this Carroll Gardens cocktail haunt adds the perfect winterish atmosphere to your enjoyment of its top-notch drinks.

Warm up with: Whatever is on

the seasonal winter cocktail menu.

Clover Club [210 Smith St. between Baltic and Butler streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 855–7939, www.cloverclubny.com].

Black Rabbit

If you find yourself in Brooklyn’s more northerly regions on a wintry night, burrow into the cozy confines

of the Black Rabbit. As the name suggests, its interior looks like a rough-hewn tavern, and when the sun sets at 5 pm and the wind whips off the East River, a perch by the wood-burning stove in this establishment is the hottest seat in the ‘hood.

Warm up with: As great as the fireplace here is, the real draw of Black Rabbit is its booths. If you are lucky enough to snag one, hide deep in one of the wooden snugs with a couple of pals and you will never have to leave, because you can summon wait staff with a service light.

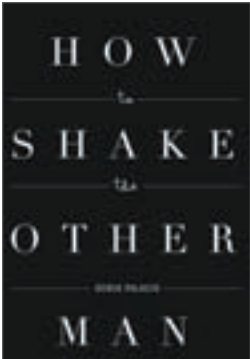
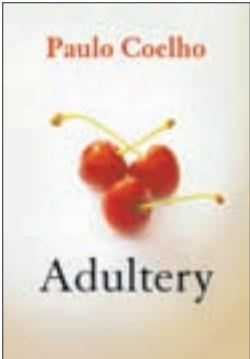
Black Rabbit [91 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin Street and Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 349–1595 www.blackrabbitbarnyc.com].

Two Door Tavern

This joint loses points for its modern-looking blonde wood and its mostly open floor plan, but a fireplace is a fireplace, and this one will do you mighty well should you find yourself in a snowstorm in the heart of Williamsburg.

Warm up with: If you are trying to fill your stomach, as well as the yawning chasm in your soul that only a fireplace can thaw, try the red velvet pancakes.

Two Door Tavern [116 N. Fifth St. between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–0222, www.twodoortavern.com].



Weekend reads!

Booksellers offer recommendations

Word’s pick

“The Trace” by Forrest Gander:

In the kitchen of literature, Forrest Gander’s “The Trace” is your slow cooker. Contents within are revealed, overtime, to be distinct, enriching, and (almost alarmingly) satisfying. Here, a couple in the wake of a traumatic, unspoken event involving their son are on the road in Mexico. They’re visiting the various alleged death sites of the American author Ambrose Bierce, they’re sitting in silence, and they’re dodging suspicious stares from the locals and the glare of the sun. And then they’re stranded in the middle of the Chihuahua Desert. Tense and poetic, welcome this hearty, heady broth into your system.

— Chad Felix, Word [126

Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].

BookMark’s pick

“Adultery” by Paulo Coelho:

This may be one of my favorite books this year. “Adultery” doesn’t just speak of cheating, it focuses on the journey of life and faith. This is a book that requires the reader to do some hard thinking about his or her own life and to be aware that restlessness and boredom can lead to constructive change or to destruction.

— Christine Freglette, The BookMark Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833–5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].

Greenlight’s pick

“How to Shake the Other Man” by Derek Palacio:

Derek Palacio’s debut novella circles Javi’s first boxing match in the days following Marcel’s murder. Oscar, the owner of the gym and Marcel’s brother, is left with his brother’s business and lover. Through flashback, Marcel becomes larger than life as he links these two men together. This book is poetic, smartly told, and fits in your back pocket. It’s about how to connect with another human being. One of my favorites of 2014.

— Jess Pane, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].



Who let the doctors out: Indie rock outfit Dr. Dog plays four nights at the Music Hall of Williamsburg, Jan. 9–12.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

www.brooklynhistory.org.
COMEDY, JACKKNIFE COMEDY: Hosted by Gideon Hambright and Patrick Hastie. This month’s show features Zane Golia, Rachael Parenta, Eli Sairs, Mike Abrusci, Naomi Karavani, and Drew Dowdey. **Free.** 7 pm. Brooklyn Colony [274 Fourth Ave. between First and Carroll streets in Gowanus, (347) 675–7467], <https://www.facebook.com/JackknifeComedy>.

WED, JAN. 7

COMEDY, SIMPLY UNEMPLOYABLE LIVE! Featuring improv from Lauren Adams,

Michael Hartney, Trevor Livingston, Cavan Rogers, and Josh Gonde. \$5. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, THE TRAVELERS, GENDER STUDIES, JESUS JIM, YOUNG BUGS: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

THURS, JAN. 8

MUSIC, “TOXIC PSALMS”: Vocal theater women’s ensemble Carmina Slovenia channels ancient and modern cultures. \$20. 8 pm. St. Ann’s Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254–8779], www.stannwarehouse.org.

MUSIC, GARCIA PEOPLES, DEBBY SCHWARTZ, ESCAPE BY OSTRITCH: \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

FRI, JAN. 9

MUSIC, DR. DOG, TWAIN: \$25–\$35. 9 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486–5400], www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.

ART, “THE DOODLES” OPENING RECEPTION: Shu Ohno’s collection of disorder on a miniature scale, focusing on the man-made deterioration of objects, and their re-creation. **Free.** 6–9 pm.

P 339 [339 Bedford Avenue between S. Third and S. Fourth streets in Williamsburg], www.p339.org.

TALK, RISK! Storytelling night hosted by Kevin Allison, featuring true storie speakers never thought they’d dare to share in public. \$12–\$14. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhousesny.com.

SAT, JAN. 10

MUSIC, PONGO POWER GYM GRAND OPENING: Featuring stand-up comedy, live music, drinks, and an obstacle course. **Free.** Noon–6 pm. Pongo Power [350 Flatbush Ave. between St. Johns and Sterling places in Park Slope, 718–638–7722], www.pongopower.com.

ART, “HORSES” OPENING RECEPTION: Tim Bruniges’ interactive exhibition showcases a commune of horses in Iceland. Using sound, objects, and light, Bruniges explores movement and the tension between stasis and flux. **Free.** 6–9 pm. Chasm [58 Bogart St. between Bogart St. and Morgan Avenue in Bushwick], www.chasmgallery.com.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/24/14, bearing Index Number NC-001336-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Elkunah (Middle) Chaim Yeshaya (Last) Zoberman. My present name is (First) Elkunah (Middle) Chaim Yesieah (Last) Zoberman AKA Elkonah C. Zoberman AKA Elkonah Chaim Yeshaya Zoberman AKA Elkunah Zoberman AKA Elkonah Zoberman. My present address is 1328 - 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is December 24, 1976.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/07/2014, bearing Index Number NC-001173-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Cassidy (Middle) Skye (Last) McKenna. My present name is (First) Chad (Middle) Patrick (Last) McKenna AKA Chad P McKenna AKA Chad McKenna. My present address is 614 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205-1438. My place of birth is RANDOLPH, VT. My date of birth is July 12, 1984.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/03/2014, bearing Index Number NC-001172-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Reyliana (Middle) Kieosha (Last) Grinaway. My present name is (First) Reyliana (Middle) Kieosha (Last) Simpson (infant). My present address is 305 Linden Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is March 15, 2000.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/24/2014, bearing Index Number NC-001334-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Sasha (Middle) Justin Richard (Last) Forde. My present name is (First) Sasha (Middle) Justin Richard (Last) Gillis AKA Sasha Justin Richard Forde Gillis AKA Sasha J R Gillis. My present address is 1647 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is March 08, 1985.

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF KINGS
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST AND FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-HE2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff(s), Against Index No.: 9222/2009 ERROL FORRESTER, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on 8/27/2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 1/15/2015, at 2:30 pm premises known as 351 4th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215, described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn and County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 982 and Lot 61. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$918,657.83 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 9222/2009. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, Blaise F. Parascandola, Esq., Referee, Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504 Dated: 11/3/14 APA

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF KINGS, EMIGRANT MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff, vs. JADZIA MALINOWSKI, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on May 01, 2013 and the Order filed July 30, 2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 15, 2015 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 158 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 1047 and Lot 13. Approximate amount of judgment is \$519,811.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 22865/08. Francis Terrell, Esq., Referee Borchert & LaSpina, P.C., 19-02 Whitestone Expressway, Suite 302, Whitestone, New York 11357, Attorneys for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, THAT THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 AT 2:00 P.M. AT 66 JOHN STREET, 11TH FLOOR, ON A PETITION FOR MDZ RESTAURANT CORP. TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE AN UNENCLOSED SIDEWALK AVE AT 336 GRAHAM AVE IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. REQUEST FOR COPIES OF THE REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004

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